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**A Comparative Study of Awareness of the Female and Male Students
studying at Under Graduate Level Regarding the Environmental Crisis**

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Introduction:

Most of us live in landscapes that have been heavily modified by human beings, in villages, towns or cities. Our daily lives are linked with our surroundings and inevitably affects them. Everything around us forms our environment and our lives depend on keeping its vital systems as intact as possible. The industrial development and intensive agriculture that provides the goods for our increasingly consumer oriented society uses up large amounts of natural resources. Our natural resources can be compared with money in a bank. If we use it rapidly, the capital will be reduced to zero. On the other hand, if we use only the interest, it can sustain us over the longer term. Understanding and making ourselves more aware of our environmental assets and problems is not enough. We, each one of us, must become increasingly concerned about our environment and change the way in which we use every resource. If we begin to ask questions of ourselves, we will begin to live lifestyles that are more sustainable and will support our environment. Individually we can play a major role in environment management. This can only be made possible through the awareness. Thus the need of this study is to go for examination and comparison of the awareness of female and male students studying at UG level.

Meaning of environmental crisis:

The world is heading for an "ecological credit crunch" far worse than the current financial crisis because humans are over-using the natural resources of the planet, an international study warns today. The Living Planet report calculates that humans are using 30% more resources than the Earth can replenish each year, which is leading to deforestation, degraded soils, polluted air and water. The problem is also getting worse as populations and consumption keep growing faster than technology finds new ways of expanding what can be produced from the natural world. Based on figures from 2005, the index indicates global biodiversity has declined by nearly a third since 1970. Breakdowns of the overall figure show the tropical species index fell by half. Over the same period the ecological footprint of the human population has nearly doubled. If population levels continue to rise at the current rate, our grandchildren will see the Earth plunged into an unprecedented environmental crisis.

Importance of Study:

The environment functions best when it's in balance. Unfortunately, we're not quite there. Issues like pollution, depletion of resources, the rise of consumerism, and the "throw away culture" have led to serious issues. That being said, the fight is not over yet, and more people than ever are both aware of and active in the protection of the environment needed for the task. There have been a number of individuals who have been instrumental in shaping the environmental history in our country and at International level too. The only solution left to us is to change our



behaviour, radically and globally, on every level. In short, we urgently need to consume less. A lot less. Radically less. And we need to conserve more. A lot more. To accomplish such a radical change in behaviour would also need radical government action. As a part of this Sant Gadge Baba Amravati University, Amravati passed an Ordinance for Examination in Environmental Studies leading to Bachelor Degree in all faculties. Traditional education has role of transforming existing knowledge of society to individuals and also to promote young people's competencies for critically analyzing and reflecting the environmental awareness. People must be aware about the visible disturbances in environment. Without awareness it is not possible to enjoy a quality life on earth. This study is carried out on the female and male students of B.Sc. degree studying in Smt. Sindhutai Jadhav Arts & Science College, Mehkar Dist. Buldana in 2018-19 as an awareness drive. Environmental awareness is to understand the fragility of our environment and the importance of its protection. Promoting environmental awareness is an easy way to become an environmental steward and participate in creating a brighter future. And the comparison is to find the degree of variation in awareness to minimize the same through teaching learning process. It is commonly observed that in our society, females take significant role in nurturing and caring of children and family, because of such natural tendencies they have great concern for environment in terms of higher awareness than males. Keeping this in mind the present study is initiated.

Objectives of the Study:

1. To check and compare whether the female and male students are aware of present status of environment.
2. To check and compare whether the female and male students are aware of what is the worst environmental problem faced by the planet.
3. To check and compare whether the female and male students are aware of who are the worst polluters.
4. To check and compare whether the female and male students are aware of who should be responsible for making sure we have a healthy environment
5. To check and compare whether the female and male students are aware of what will make sure the environment is healthy for future generations.
6. To check and compare whether the female and male students are aware of what does Sustainable development means

Sample of Study:

The second year B.Sc. female and male students studying in Smt. Sindhutai Jadhav Arts & Science College, Mehkar Dist. Buldana in the year 2018-19 are the respondents for this study, because they perform "Environmental Studies" as a part of their curriculum. The responses are gathered from male students by random sampling method.

Methodology of Study:

In the present study, normative survey method has been adopted as it is most appropriate method for such types of studies. The present study was a questionnaire-based survey conducted in Smt. Sindhutai Jadhav Arts & Science College, Mehkar Dist. Buldana.

Tool used for the Study:



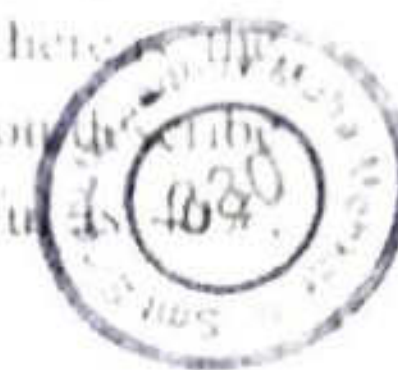
The questionnaire used for Environmental Awareness Survey by Bob Simpson, from Green Teacher Magazine is used for this study. The responses given by the respondents were tabulated and were analyzed using the simple statistical tool percentage.

Delimitation:

The present study is delimited to the female and male students of second year B.Sc studying in Smt. Sindhutai Jadhao Arts & Science College, Mehkar Dist. Buldana in the year 2018-19.

Findings:

1. The percentage of female student respondents preferred to reply about the present status of environment- in good shape is 20%; in some trouble but can be saved with a little effort is 20%; in bad shape but a lot of effort might save it is 60% and in such bad shape little can be done about it 00%. Whereas the percentage of male student respondents preferred to reply about the present status of environment- in good shape is 40%; in some trouble but can be saved with a little effort is 20%; in bad shape but a lot of effort might save it is 30% and in such bad shape little can be done about it 10%.
2. The percentage of female student respondents preferred to reply about what is the worst environmental problem faced by the planet- ozone depletion is 10%; toxic waste is 20%; global warming is 20%; water pollution is 00%; air pollution is 30% and deforestation is zero. Whereas the percentage of male student respondents preferred to reply about what the worst environmental problem is faced by the planet- ozone depletion is 30%; toxic waste is 10%; global warming is 10%; water pollution is 40%; air pollution is 10% and deforestation is zero.
3. The percentage of female student respondents preferred to reply about who are the worst polluters- industries is 70%; governments is 00% and individual people is 30%. Whereas the percentage of male student respondents preferred to reply about who are the worst polluters- industries is 50%; governments is 30% and individual people is 20%.
4. The percentage of female student respondents preferred to reply about who should be responsible for making sure we have a healthy environment- industry is 00%, government is 00%; environmental groups is 100% and individuals is 00%. Whereas the percentage of male student respondents preferred to reply about who should be responsible for making sure we have a healthy environment- industry is 30%, government is 20%; environmental groups is 40% and individuals is 10%.
5. The percentage of female student respondents preferred to reply about Is the current concern over the state of the environment justified - yes is 20%, no is 00% and not sure is 80%. Whereas the percentage of male student respondents preferred to reply about Is the current concern over the state of the environment justified - yes is 40%; no is 20% and not sure is 40%.
6. The percentage of female student respondents preferred to reply about how would you describe your future in the current concern about the environment- bright and hopeful is 30%; challenging is 50%; depressing is 20% and uncertain is zero%. Whereas the percentage of male student respondents preferred to reply about how would you describe your future in the current concern about the environment- bright and hopeful is 40%; challenging is 50%; depressing is 10% and uncertain is zero%.



7. The percentage of female student respondents preferred to reply about what is the single most important thing that will make sure the environment is healthy for future generations- the polluting industries shut down, even if people lose their jobs is 20%. new technologies can be found to solve our problems is 20%. people learn to live with less and be more efficient users of energy and materials is 60% and we find a way to have economic development continue in a way that minimizes pollution is 60%. Whereas the percentage of male student respondents preferred to reply about what is the single most important thing that will make sure the environment is healthy for future generations- the polluting industries shut down, even if people lose their jobs is 10%; new technologies can be found to solve our problems is 50%; people learn to live with less and be more efficient users of energy and materials is 30% and we find a way to have economic development continue in a way that minimizes pollution is 10%.
8. The percentage of female student respondents preferred to reply about do you believe your health has already been affected by pollution- yes is 10%; no is 00%; maybe is 90% and haven't thought about it is 00%. Whereas the percentage of male student respondents preferred to reply about do you believe your health has already been affected by pollution- yes is 30%; no is zero%; maybe is 60% and haven't thought about it is 10%.
9. The percentage of female student respondents preferred to reply about By the time you are 30 years old, how the environment will be- destroyed is 00%, better than it is now is 60%; worse than it is now is 00% and about the same as it is now is 40%. Whereas the percentage of male student respondents preferred to reply about By the time you are 30 years old, how the environment will be- destroyed is 20%; better than it is now is 50%; worse than it is now is 20% and about the same as it is now is 10%.
10. The percentage of female student respondents preferred to reply about what does Sustainable development means- development that provides the most jobs is 00%. development that will save the environment even if it means lots of people will lose their jobs is 20% and development that takes into consideration the economic and environmental needs of future generations is 80%. Whereas the percentage of male student respondents preferred to reply about what does Sustainable development means- development that provides the most jobs is 30%; development that will save the environment even if it means lots of people will lose their jobs is 20% and development that takes into consideration the economic and environmental needs of future generations is 50%.

Conclusions:

1. Most of the female students are aware of the present status of environment and feel that it is in bad shape but a lot of effort might save it. Whereas Most of the male students are aware of the present status of environment and feel that it is in some trouble.
2. Most of the female and male students are aware of the various worst environmental problem faced by the planet.
3. Most of the female as well as male students are aware of fact that the industries are the worst polluters.



4. Most of the female students feel that the environmental groups can make sure we have a healthy environment. Whereas Most of the male students feel that the industries can make sure we have a healthy environment.
5. Regarding the awareness about whether the current concern over the state of the environment justified found to be a matter of concern as all of the female and male students are not sure about it.
6. Most of the female and male students are aware of their challenging future in the current concern about the environment
7. Most of the female students are aware of they find a way to have economic development continue in a way that minimizes pollution is the single most important thing that will make sure the environment is healthy for future generations. Whereas Most of the female students are aware of they find a way new technologies can be found to solve our problems is the single most important thing that will make sure the environment is healthy for future generations.
8. Most of the female and male students are not aware of their health has already been affected by pollution.
9. Most of the female and male students are aware of about by the time they are 30 years old the environment will be better than it is now.
10. Most of the female and male students are aware of the development that takes into consideration the economic and environmental needs of future generations is Sustainable development.
11. It emerged from the study that when the educational courses are held constant the gender has no significant effect on awareness regarding environmental crisis.

Recommendations:

By increasing awareness and concern, education can encourage people to reduce their impact on the environment through more efficient behavior. For this it is essential that special practical activities should be included in the University curriculum in order to bring out the desirable attitudinal changes among students.

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